

1FW

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIPE" at the top and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. In the center, the date "JUN 09 2005" is stamped.

~~~~~

**Examiner:**

**Filed: September 14, 2004**

**Docket No.: 22.3085**

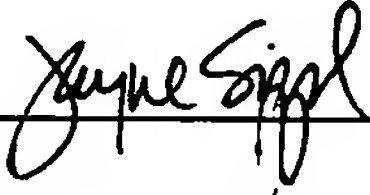
## TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
37 C.F.R. 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, D.C. 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

6/6/05 \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signature 

1. Transmittal Letter
2. Information Disclosure Statement
3. PTO/SB/08A *Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant*
4. Copies of Foreign References
5. Return Receipt Card

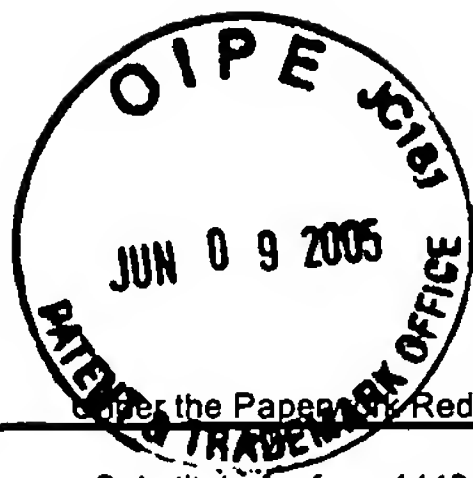
Respectfully submitted,

Harry E. King

Jeffery E. Daly  
Reg. No. 44,640  
Customer No. 26932

Grant Prideco, L.P.  
400 N. Sam Houston Parkway East  
Suite 900  
Houston, TX 77060  
Ph: 281.878.5658  
e-mail: [jeff.daly@grantprideco.com](mailto:jeff.daly@grantprideco.com)

Grant Prideco, L.P.  
400 N. Sam Houston Parkway East  
Suite 900  
Houston, TX 77060  
Ph: 281.878.5658  
e-mail: [jeff.daly@grantprideco.com](mailto:jeff.daly@grantprideco.com)



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/711,359         |
| Filing Date            | September 14, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor   | Alaria, et al.     |
| Art Unit               | 3679               |
| Examiner Name          |                    |
| Attorney Docket Number | 22.3085            |

Sheet 1 of 5

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 186,503                              | 01-23-1877                     | Snook                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 360,663                              | 04-05-1887                     | Daniels                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 808027                               | 12-19-1905                     | Eager                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 992,516                              | 05-16-1911                     | Mulconroy et al.                                   |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1125067                              | 01-19-1915                     | Cook                                               |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1141151                              | 06-01-1915                     | Speller                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1280170                              | 10-01-1918                     | Crawford                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1344028                              | 06-22-1920                     | Ewald                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1363353                              | 12-28-1920                     | Riker                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1489065                              | 04-01-1924                     | Clifton                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1543963                              | 06-30-1925                     | Walton                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1746701                              | 02-11-1930                     | Kimmich                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1797180                              | 03-17-1931                     | Snyder                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1840312                              | 01-12-1932                     | Dunmire                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 1942518                              | 01-09-1934                     | Protin                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2106595                              | 01-25-1938                     | Draving                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2145168                              | 01-24-1939                     | Flagg                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2204586                              | 06-18-1940                     | Grau                                               |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2289271                              | 07-07-1942                     | Kane et al.                                        |                                                                                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                           | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                       |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 5

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/711,359         |
| Filing Date            | September 14, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor   | Alaria, et al.     |
| Art Unit               | 3679               |
| Examiner Name          |                    |
| Attorney Docket Number | 22.3085            |

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2296198                              | 09-15-1942                     | Boynton                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2407552                              | 09-10-1946                     | Hoesel                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2500276                              | 03-14-1950                     | Church                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2552794                              | 05-15-1951                     | Kimbell                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2613959                              | 10-14-1952                     | Richardson                                         |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2762638                              | 09-11-1956                     | Brown                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2766054                              | 10-09-1956                     | Everhart                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2810400                              | 10-22-1957                     | Hewitt                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2825584                              | 03-04-1958                     | Badger et al                                       |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2885225                              | 05-05-1959                     | Rollins                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 2931670                              | 04-05-1960                     | Church                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3013820                              | 12-19-1961                     | Pouppirt                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3069187                              | 12-18-1962                     | Collins et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3139293                              | 06-30-1964                     | Franck                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3208757                              | 09-28-1965                     | Jageman                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3218210                              | 11-16-1965                     | Waddell Jr                                         |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3233921                              | 02-08-1966                     | Holmgren et al                                     |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3287813                              | 11-29-1966                     | Lennon et al                                       |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3388752                              | 06-18-1968                     | Hanes et al                                        |                                                                                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                           | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                       |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/711,359         |
| Filing Date            | September 14, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor   | Alaria, et al.     |
| Art Unit               | 3679               |
| Examiner Name          |                    |
| Attorney Docket Number | 22.3085            |

Sheet 3 of 5

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3395934                              | 08-06-1968                     | Rosan et al                                        |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3442536                              | 05-06-1969                     | Fowler                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3447820                              | 06-03-1969                     | Durnan                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3453359                              | 07-01-1969                     | Clement et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3648548                              | 03-14-1972                     | Siddall                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3813115                              | 05-28-1974                     | French                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3835891                              | 09-17-1974                     | White                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3841668                              | 10-15-1974                     | Williams                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3857349                              | 12-31-1974                     | Pritulsky                                          |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3870351                              | 03-11-1975                     | Matuski                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3876319                              | 04-08-1975                     | Meyer                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3880451                              | 04-29-1975                     | Kinzbach                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3889716                              | 06-17-1975                     | Linhart                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3908704                              | 09-30-1975                     | Clement et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 3916505                              | 11-04-1975                     | White                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4074912                              | 02-21-1978                     | Van Bilderbeek et al                               |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4094539                              | 06-13-1978                     | Reimert                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4098298                              | 07-04-1978                     | Vohrer                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4124229                              | 11-07-1978                     | Ahlstone                                           |                                                                                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                             | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                       |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> ~ Number <sup>4</sup> ~ Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          |                                                                                     |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/711,359         |
| Filing Date            | September 14, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor   | Alaria, et al.     |
| Art Unit               | 3679               |
| Examiner Name          |                    |
| Attorney Docket Number | 22.3085            |

Sheet 4 of 5

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4124232                              | 11-07-1978                     | Ahlstone                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4127927                              | 12-05-1978                     | Hauk et al                                         |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4154466                              | 05-15-1979                     | Simmons                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4196031                              | 04-01-1980                     | Lalikos et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4342612                              | 08-03-1982                     | Lalikos et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4352614                              | 10-05-1982                     | Hirsch                                             |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4444421                              | 04-24-1984                     | Ahlstone                                           |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4647072                              | 03-03-1987                     | Westman                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4804019                              | 02-14-1989                     | Kramer Jr                                          |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 4878794                              | 11-07-1989                     | Potucek                                            |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5042138                              | 08-27-1991                     | Umemori et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5182147                              | 01-26-1993                     | Davis                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5217158                              | 06-08-1993                     | Spiegelberg, et al.                                |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5257733                              | 11-02-1993                     | Spiegelberg, et al.                                |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5485870                              | 01-23-1996                     | Kraik                                              |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 5637806                              | 06-10-1997                     | Barysnikov et al                                   |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US- 6371224 B1                           | 04-16-2002                     | Freeman et al                                      |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US-                                      |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                       |                          | US-                                      |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                           | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                       |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | EP1031739 A2                                                                      | 08-30-2000                        | INA Walzlager                                      |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | GB2133479 A                                                                       | 07-25-1984                        | General Motors                                     |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | WO01/66903 A1                                                                     | 09-13-2001                        | Brush Wellman                                      |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | IT01283507                                                                        | 07-26-1996                        | Agip S.P.A.                                        |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | SU1834780A3                                                                       | 10-23-1990                        |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       |                          | FR2599812A1                                                                       | 06-04-1986                        | Societe Anonyme                                    |                                                                                 |                |

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   |                            |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449/PTO<br><br><h1>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h1> <p><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p> |   |    |   | <h2>Complete if Known</h2> |                    |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | Application Number         | 10/711,359         |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | Filing Date                | September 14, 2004 |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | First Named Inventor       | Alaria, et al.     |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | Art Unit                   | 3679               |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | Examiner Name              |                    |
|                                                                                                                                                |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number     | 22.3085            |
| Sheet                                                                                                                                          | 5 | of | 5 |                            |                    |

[illegible]

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                           | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> ~Number <sup>4</sup> ~Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          | EP0083675B1                                                                       | 03-26-1986                        | Strodter                                           |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          | WO03/004826A1                                                                     | 01-16-2003                        | Maxwell Downhol                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                          |                          |                                                                                   |                                   |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

|                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

**If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.**